



**The Nutshell**  
BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION  
1401 NW PARK ROAD – BLUE SPRINGS, MO 64015

BURR OAK WOODS  
CONSERVATION NATURE  
CENTER is located one  
mile north of I-70 on Hwy  
7, one mile west on Park  
Road. The Nature Center  
is open Monday through  
Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
and NOON to 5 p.m. on  
Sundays. AREA HOURS:  
The area and trails are  
open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. for  
Daylight Savings Time.  
No pets allowed. No  
Admission charged. Gift  
Shop closes at 4:30 p.m.



Celebrate Fishing & Hunting

# The Nutshell

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER SEPTEMBER 2002 Vol. 16 NO. 9

The diner was quiet for the number of people it held. But, I guess that's to be expected with the clock quietly working toward four a.m. We sat down to coffee or juice trying to get our systems awake. In a short time, the tables roused and the mood shifted to one of anticipation. The diner quickly emptied as we started toward our vehicles and toward our destination, the lake.

The headlights shone around the bend illuminating a few of our compatriots unloading decoys and getting the duck boats prepared. We loaded up and headed out. Standing solo on the back of the duck boat, poling my way through the marshy water, a remnant feeling of the past settled in my bones. The air was cold, the fog was heavy over the water, and the first hint of dawn was defining the horizon. I climbed into the boat, laid down, covered the reed blanket over myself, held my gun next to my chest, and waited.

The fingers of the sun slowly pushed through the darkness, and misty clouds gave way to the pink, orange, reds and violets of dawn. First, I could hear the distant calls as they awoke, their instinct

drawing them toward water. Their familiar silhouettes dotted the morning sky as their calls announced daybreak. They circled above, carefully choosing their landing site. Hunters in the distant began calling back, inviting them to their lairs. The seasoned callers of our group provided the honors for the amateurs, and the ducks accepted the invitation.

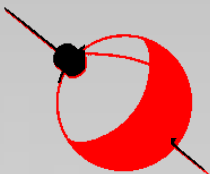
The ducks came down in slow, wide spirals; the colors on their heads and wings highlighting their descent. Hunters rose and took aim as their prey came into range. Some were successful. Some were not.

As with most hunts, the thrill of the morning was not how many ducks we brought home, it was the camaraderie with fellow outdoor enthusiasts, the witness of the dawn, the skill of the callers, and the glory of the

birds. I look forward to the fall with quiet contemplation. This is the heritage of Missouri, taking game off the land, supplying food for the table, and sharing experiences with friends, family, and the natural world.

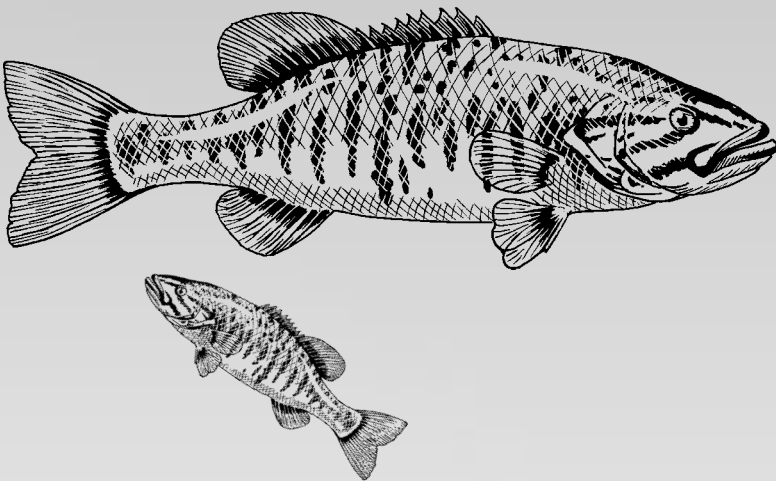
Join us this month at the nature center to explore hunting and fishing in Missouri. Programs are highlighted on the following page. Take some time to connect with your wild heritage.

-- Lynn Youngblood



## Kid's Discovery Page

### Make a Sawdust Clay Fish & Animal Tracks!



Supplies need:

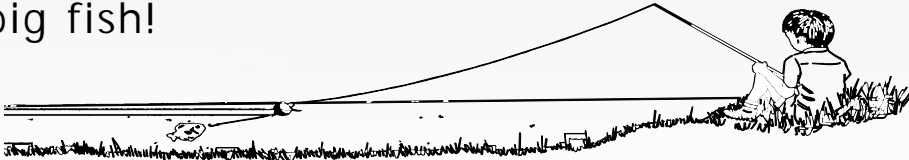
- 4 Dixie cups of sawdust
- 3 Dixie cups of flour
- 2 dixie cups of water (add as needed)

Mix the sawdust and flour ahead of time and place it in a ziplock bag until you are ready to use. The sawdust is best if you get it directly from the saw. If you use floor sweepings, be sure to sift out the larger pieces.

Add water slowly until mixture looks like play dough. Place the mixture into the foot molds and then as soon as the tracks are filled evenly with the mixture, remove it from the molds. The prints need to be placed in the sun to dry. When the prints are dry, they can be painted.

Instead of using molds, you can make a fish or an aquatic animal!

This makes approximately 8 footprints or 3 big fish!



# September Events

How to register for a September program: Call Burr Oak Woods Nature Center on or after September 1 to register. (Phone 228-3766 V/TDD). The Programs are FREE of charge. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

## Family Fishing

SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 7, 14, 21, & 28, AT 9 A.M. - 11 A.M. (ALL AGES)  
Days are cooling off and it's the perfect time to get outside and learn a new lifelong skill. If you've got youngsters at home that would love to learn to fish, but you're not quite sure yourself, then this is the program for you! We'll help you teach your kids, or teach yourself. No experience necessary, this is a program for first timers. All equipment and bait provided. Participants 16 - 65 years of age must have a valid Missouri fishing license which are sold at the nature center. Registration required.

## Outdoor Adventures: Nature Photography

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, AT 10:30 A.M. - NOON (AGES 11 AND UP)  
Nature has a lot to offer and this month we'll try to capture it on film. Join us as we learn the techniques of nature photography. You'll learn about light, composition, and how to take a picture of the animal that won't stay still. You'll get the chance to explore parts of Burr Oak Woods you may have never seen before and experience nature in a whole new way. Dress for the weather, bring a water bottle, and insect repellent. Registration required.

## Dr. Nutcase: The Game of Life

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, AT 2 P.M. (AGES 7 AND UP)  
What would happen if all the hunters laid down their guns, arrows, and traps? Would the world become a better place, or would chaos occur? Play "The Game of Life" where you will manipulate an animal population to unravel the secrets of survival and discover the answer to why we hunt. Registration required.

## Little Acorns: Can We Talk?

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 19, & 21, AT 10:30 A.M. OR 1:30 P.M. (AGES 3 - 6)  
Why do coyotes howl or owls hoot? Do all animals make talk or just a few? Join us this month as we learn about how and why animals make the noises they do and what exactly they are trying to say. You'll even get to make your own turkey call to take home. Registration required.

## Conservation Kid's Club: Say Cheese!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, AT 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. (AGES 7 - 11)  
It's time to head outdoors and learn all about nature photography. We'll talk about a few cool things about cameras, how to use them to take awesome nature pictures, and how to capture that perfect frog that won't stay still. Make sure to dress for the weather, bring water bottles, and bug spray. Registration required.



## Homeschool: Sounds of Nature

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, AT 9 A.M. OR 3 P.M. (AGES 7 & UP)  
Is nature really alive with the sound of music? Of course it is! Nature sounds are full of patterns and notes that relay messages to other animals, including us! Come and learn how and why animals make the sounds they do and what they all mean. Registration required.

## Homeschool: Can We Talk?

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, AT 9 A.M. OR 3 P.M. (AGES 3 - 6)  
Why do coyotes howl or owls hoot? Do all animals make talk or just a few? Join us this month as we learn about how and why animals make the noises they do and what exactly they are trying to say. You'll even get to make your own turkey caller to take home. Registration required.

## Families with Deaf and Hard of Hearing: Nature Photography

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, AT 2:30 - 4:00 P.M.  
Nature has a lot to offer and this month we'll try to capture it on film. Join us as we learn the techniques of nature photography. You'll learn about light, composition, and how to take a picture of the animal that won't stay still. You'll get the chance to explore parts of Burr Oak Woods you may have never seen before and experience nature in a whole new way. Dress for the weather, bring a water bottle, and insect repellent. This program is taught using sign language, but an interpreter will be available for the hearing members of your family. Registration required.

## Possum Trot Orienteering Clinic

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 9:00 - NOON (ALL AGES)  
Are you afraid of being lost in the woods? Is using a compass a mystery to you? This clinic will teach you how to read a topographic map, use a compass, and find your bearing. After learning these new skills, you will practice a short outdoor course. If you're a hunter, or just an outdoor enthusiast, map and compass skills are a must. Bring your own compass if you have one, and dress for the weather. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required.

## Family Hike

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, AT 1 P.M. (ALL AGES)  
Doesn't a family hike sound like a great thing to do? Join in on the adventure as we explore the Habitat trail in search of the wildlife that lives within the forest at Burr Oak Woods. If you have a hand lens or binoculars, bring them along. See you on the trail! Dress for the weather. Registration required.

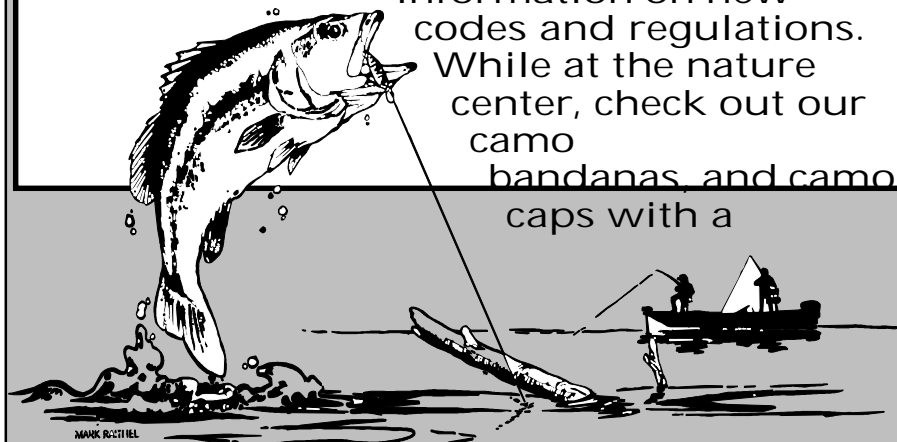
## Hiking Club

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, AT 1 P.M. (ADULTS ONLY)  
Have you heard a lot about the beautiful trail along the Little Blue River or would you like to try a little-known trail? We're meeting at the nature center and driving to the trail. It should be a wonderful morning to get out and hit the trail!

# GIFT SHOP NEWS!

Hunting season is just around the corner and that means it's time to purchase your permits. Buy them early and beat the lines. Don't forget to pick up the most up-to-date

information on new codes and regulations. While at the nature center, check out our camo bandanas, and camo caps with a



pouch to hold your permit.



## Hunter Education Course

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 8:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M.  
Located at Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center  
Sign up now for the Missouri Hunter Education Course! Learn how to hunt safely and responsibly in this course. Ten hours of instruction are required and you must be at least eleven years of age to participate. Students sixteen years of age and under must bring proof of age. Reservation required. Call (816) 655 - 6250 for date and location in the Kansas City Metro Area.

REMINDER!

## Photography Competition

You are cordially invited to participate in a photography contest. All photographs must have been taken at Burr Oak Woods. Subject matter may depict nature, visitors, programs, or history. Contest rules and regulations will be available September 1<sup>st</sup> at the front desk. Entry deadline is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Winners will be announced in October. Call Lisa ext. 232 for more information. The selected photography will be published in the November edition of the Nutshell.

## Lewis and Clark Missouri River Expedition

August 14, 2002

The Lewis and Clark River Expedition was a huge success. Thank

you to all who came and participated.

Look for this event again in 2003!



## Fish, Film, and Feedings

Join us for free nature films and wildlife feedings. Films are shown Wednesday and Sundays at 3:30 P.M. The fish, turtles, and amphibians are fed Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday at 3 P.M. The snakes are fed every Friday at 3:30 P.M.

LEARN MORE ABOUT BURR OAK WOODS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT: [WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US](http://WWW.CONSERVATION.STATE.MO.US)

Reuse this paper for target practice!